

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to provide a cross-reference to the previously filed International Application.

The claims have been amended to delete multiple dependencies and to place the application into better form for examination. Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

(Rev. 02/21/02)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The claims have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to [any one of the preceding claims]claim 1, characterized in that the cooling liquid has a temperature of less than -15°C.

4. (Amended) Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to [any one of the preceding claims]claim 1, characterized in that the cooling liquid is a liquefied gas or a liquefied gas mixture.

5. (Amended) Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to [any one of the preceding claims]claim 1, characterized in that the cooling liquid is liquid air or liquid nitrogen.

6. (Amended) Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to [any one of the preceding claims]claim 1, characterized in that the droplet size is 0.3 to 5 mm in diameter.

7. (Amended) Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to [any one of the preceding claims]claim 1, characterized in that the chitosan or chitosan derivative employed has a molar mass of more than 40,000.

8. (Amended) Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to [any one of the preceding claims]claim 1, characterized in that the chitosan or chitosan derivative used has a molar mass of more than 75,000.

9. (Amended) Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to [any one of the preceding claims]claim 1, characterized in that the chitosan or chitosan derivative used has an acetylation degree of 10 to 50%.

10. (Amended) Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to [any one of the preceding claims]claim 1, characterized in that the chitosan or chitosan derivative employed has an acetylation degree of 20 to 45%.

11. (Amended) Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to

[any one of the preceding claims]claim 1, characterized in that the basic chitosan derivative is an acylated chitosan.

12. (Amended) Porous active substance-containing pellets which disintegrate in physiological liquids within several minutes and are based on chitosan or a basic chitosan derivative, characterized in that the pellets are manufactured by means of a process according to [one of the preceding claims]claim 1.

14. (Amended) Porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to [claims 12 or 13]claim 12, characterized in that they have an average particle size of 0.3 to 5 mm in diameter.

15. (Amended) Porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to [claims 12 to 14]claim 12, characterized in that they have an average particle size of 0.8 to 3 mm in diameter.

16. (Amended) Porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to [claims 12 to 15]claim 12, characterized in that for purposes of application they are present in a hard capsule.

17. (Amended) Porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to [claims 12 to 15]claim

12, characterized in that prior to intake they are placed in a liquid in which they disintegrate.

18. (Amended) Use of the pellets according to [claims 12 to 17]claim 12 for manufacturing a medicament or a diagnostic agent.

(Rev. 11/13/01)